

REMARKS

By this response, the specification is amended to add information related to the parent applications, and to reflect changes made in the priority claim. No new matter is introduced. A petition to correct inventorship under 37 CFR 1.48(a) is also submitted herewith.

The Office Action dated August 23, 2002 indicated that the priority status of the current application is unclear in that the parent applications were identified as having "unknown" application number, and that the current application and its parent applications do not have common inventors. The Examiner requested clarification.

The current application is a continuation-in-part of a U.S. Patent Application, filed on January 25, 2002, entitled "Method for Conducting Vehicle Diagnoses Using Distributed Structure," assigned to the common assignee of the current application. The application number of the parent application was unavailable at the time of filing. By this amendment, the application number received from the USPTO is added to the specification.

In the Office Action, the Examiner also indicated that the current application and its parent applications lack common inventors. It was determined that through error, and without deceptive on the part of the inventors, Steven W. Rogers, George M. Gill, Jean de Belleuille, Michael J. Kling, III, and Michael L. Baird were not listed as inventors of the subject application. A petition to correct inventorship under 37 CFR 1.48(a) to add these inventors is filed concurrently herewith.

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After the correction of inventorship, Steven W. Rogers, George M. Gill, Jean de Belleuille, Michael J. Kling, III, and Michael L. Baird are common inventors of the current application and its parent application, US Patent Application No. 10/054,793.

Assignment and declaration signed by the added inventors, George M. Gill, Jean de Belleuille, Michael J. Kling, III, and Michael L. Baird, are attached concurrently hereto. One of the added inventors, Steven, W. Rogers, however, cannot be found or reached. Mr. Rogers, who is an ex-employee of the assignee of the current application, has just moved recently, after signing the Statement by Inventors Added to Application. Mr. Rogers cannot be reached despite diligent effort made by Assignee's representatives and employees. A petition under 37 CFR 1.47 to have the declaration and assignment signed by the joint inventors on behalf of Mr. Rogers is attached concurrently herewith.

The current application is also amended to remove claim of priority from U.S. Patent Application serial numbers 09/951,100 and 09/951,101. Thus, the current application no longer claims priority from these two patent applications. Therefore, the Examiner's concern related to lack of common inventors between U.S. Patent Application serial numbers 09/951,100 and 09/951,101, and the current application is addressed.

The present application claims patentable subject matter and is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration is respectfully requested. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this

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paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

MCDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

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Recognition Under 37 C.F.R. §10.9(b)

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